Mr. President, most every large company begins as a small company. That is axiomatic. The IPO market has been hit hardest at the smallest end of the market. The medium IPO in the first 6 months of 2009 was $135 million. Let me say that again—$135 million. Twenty years ago, IPOs at $10 million were routine, and routinely succeeded.

Take a look at this chart and look at these companies. Venture capitalists play a critical role in long-term investment, in growing our economy and creating jobs. Indeed, when you look at these 17 venture-backed companies that raised a total of $367 million in capital and today provide 470,000 U.S. jobs, they are among our economy's biggest success stories.

Look at this list. Think of where we would be today if these companies were not able to get IPS: Adobe, Computer Associates, Intel, Oracle, Yahoo. These are all the companies where growth came from. Right now, in our present market, they cannot go public the way they went public originally.

What has happened? A host of well-intentioned changes—some technological, some regulatory—with many unintended consequences have created this situation. Online brokerage firms, with their $25 trades, first appeared in 1996, hastening the decline of traditional full-service brokerage firms who charge $250 a trade. There was an advantage to those hefty fees, however. They helped maintain an underwriting apparatus that encouraged small businesses to go public and supported a substantial research base that attracted both institutional and retail clients.

The rich ecosystem of investment firms, including the Four Horsemen—Robertson Stephens, Alex Brown & Sons, Hambrecht & Quist, and Montgomery Securities—that helped their institutional buy-side clients take part in IPOs and marketed follow-on offerings, no longer exists today.

Structural changes in the U.S. capital markets dealt the final coup de grace. There were new order handling rules—decimalization, which shrank spreads significantly and made it increasingly difficult for traditional retail brokers to remain profitable; Regulation ATS and NMS, which vastly expanded the electronic marketplace.

Finally, there has been an explosive growth in high-frequency trading, which takes advantage of the market's now highly automated format to send more than 1,000 trades a second ricocheting from computer to computer.

The result, as The Economist magazine wrote last week, is that high-frequency traders who have come to dominate stock markets within their computer-driven strategies pay less attention to small firms, preferring to jump in and out of larger, more liquid shares.

The economist quoted:

> Institutional investors wary of being stuck in an illiquid of the market are increasingly following them.

This is a situation that stands as a veritable wall against a sustained economic recovery.

One of the very vital tasks before Congress is to help unemployed Americans by crafting innovation policies that will rebuild our economy, catalyze growth, and create high-quality jobs for struggling Americans. That is our No. 1 job in the Congress right now. I think if you asked every 1 of the 100 Senators, they would say that is the case.

We must identify the causes of last year's debacle and apply them to our current economic challenges in order to help the millions of struggling Americans and to avert a future disaster. The fact that Wall Street has resumed its risky and—as we know all too well—potentially disastrous behavior is simply inexcusable.

In order to reverse this ominous trend and help companies raise capital to innovate, create jobs, and grow, we must restore the financial sector's historical role as a facilitator of long-term growth and not the source of one bubble after another.

The question, finally, is this: How can we create a market structure that works for a $25 million initial public offering, both in the offering and the secondary aftermarket? If we can answer that question, this country will be back in business.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN PRAISE OF WILLIAM PHILLIPS

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of America's great federal employees.

Last week, in Stockholm and Oslo, the 2009 Nobel laureates accepted their prizes. I am particularly proud that 11 of this year's 13 prizes were won by Americans. This is a reminder of our Nation's global leadership in science, medicine, economics, and peacemaking.

My honoree today holds the distinction of having been the first Federal employee to win a Nobel Prize in physics for work performed while serving the public.

Our Federal workforce is composed of citizens who are both highly educated and incredibly motivated.

Dr. William Phillips is the perfect example. A native Pennsylvanian, William learned the importance of public service and hard work from a young age. His mother, an immigrant from Italy, and his father, a descendent of American revolutionaries, were the first in their families to attend college. They both pursued careers as social workers in Pennsylvania's coal-mining region. William, along with his brother and sister, grew up in a home where reading and education were emphasized.

As a boy, William fell in love with science, and he tinkered with model rockets and chemical compounds in the basement of his family's home. While attending Juniata College in the 1960s, William delved into physics research. He spent a semester at Argonne National Laboratory and, after graduation, pursued his doctorate at M.I.T.

During his time at M.I.T., the field of laser-cooling was just heating up, and William wrote his thesis on the collisions of atoms using this new technology.

In 1978, William began working at what is today the National Institute for Standards and Technology—or ''NIST''—at the Department of Commerce. At NIST, he pursued further research into laser-cooling, and his discoveries have helped open up a new field of atomic research and expand our knowledge of physics. His findings have found important application in precision time-keeping, which is important for both private industry and for national security.

In 1997, William received the Nobel Prize for Physics along with two other scientists. One of his fellow-laureates that year was Dr. Steven Chu, who now serves as Secretary of Energy.

After winning his Nobel Prize, William made a commitment to using his fame to promote both science education and public service. He regularly speaks to student groups, and he serves as a mentor to graduate students in his field.

William won the prestigious Arthur S. Flemming Award for Public Service in 1987, and he was honored by the Partnership for Public Service with its 2006 Service to America Medal for Career Achievement.

He and his wife, Jane, live in Gaithersburg, MD, and are active in their community and church. Today, after a 3-decade Federal career, William continues to work at NIST as the leader of its Laser-Cooling and Trapping Group.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. William Phillips and all those who work at the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their dedicated service and important contribution to our national life. They keep us at the forefront of science and human discovery. They do us all proud.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.